

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY	Poland	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]	25X1A
SUBJECT	Railway Priority Cargoes	DATE DISTR.	6 March 1953	
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1. Each autumn the Polish railroad facilities are greatly overtaxed; in addition to the transportation of crops, including sugar beets, there is the added burden of carrying transports for the Soviet and Polish armies' winter maneuvers. The winter maneuvers occur simultaneously in numerous places in Poland. Moreover, priority over all other shipments has been given to the following transports:

- a. Material destined for China which is transported via railroad to the harbors.
- b. Transports of sugar to the USSR.

According to source, the Polish railways are undergoing a great crisis at the present time.

2. Each District Directorate of the Polish Railways (Dyrekcja Okregowa Polskich Kolei Panstwowych) employs a number of Soviet employees, whose duty it is to guard the railway transports en route from Poland to the USSR. There is a fixed time-table for the transports, e.g., the sugar transports. The Soviet employees of the railroad district directorate may inspect the transports at any station and, if it is found that some of the cars carry freight other than sugar, the guards will order the unloading of the cars. Oftentimes there are no freight storage facilities at the unloading point, and the unloaded goods must remain uncovered and exposed to the elements on the station platform, regardless of the value and importance of the goods.
3. Frequently trains bearing freight for ships in the Polish harbors undergo the same fate: the Soviet employees order the unloading of all cars which do not contain material destined for China. It has not infrequently happened that the trains are stopped only a short distance from the harbor, but the guards, notwithstanding, order the unloading of the cars.

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